



"Phinney, Elizabeth"  
<PhinneE@wsdot.wa.gov>  
08/06/2007 04:25 PM

To "Wood, Andrew" <WoodA@WSDOT.WA.GOV>, "Gregory,  
Lynnette" <GregorL@WSDOT.WA.GOV>,  
<Christa.Dean@stb.dot.gov>, <linda@resourcenw.com>,  
cc

bcc

Subject FW: Comments Rail Service to Port of ML

Another comment.

**From:** Robert Russell [mailto:bob@lakebowl.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 06, 2007 1:20 PM  
**To:** Phinney, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** Comments Rail Service to Port of ML

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rail service to the Port of Moses Lake. I am for the concept of rail service to the Port, I am adamantly against the route chosen. I spoke against this route in the beginning when it was one of several being explored by the proponents. It was obvious at the first meeting years ago; this was the route which the proponent would choose. It is the shortest and therefore the cheapest. In the long run it would be disaster for the citizens of Moses Lake.

◇ The reasons I am against this route have to do with public safety, especially children and emergency vehicles, noise, traffic and the fact the entire route will soon be within the city limits of Moses Lake. Our city has seen tremendous growth the last five years with no end in sight. It makes no sense to run a freight train through town and residential areas when alternatives exist. The reasons I am against the route are as follows:

◇

The preferred route crosses three busy four-lane arterials, Wheeler Rd., Broadway Extended (Rd. K), and Stratford. In the mornings and again when school is getting out, Stratford Rd. has very high traffic counts. It also crosses Rd. L., Wenatchee Dr., Kinder Dr., Maple Dr., and Loring Dr. before it reaches the airport. These are either arterials or residential streets.

◇

In addition, and perhaps most important, it passes through an old residential area and alongside Longview Elementary School. This has been the case for a number of years. The difference is now this will be a real freight train, moving at much higher speeds with far more cars.

Emergency vehicles will be impacted by the proposed route. They travel these busy streets daily.

The citizens of Moses Lake by and large are unaware of the proposed route through the city. I have spoken to many, many people and not one was aware of the route. Their almost universal comment was, "you're kidding, I didn't know that". The reason they are unaware is because the specific route has never been published. Only a meeting notice has been published, but nothing

about the route. In articles in the paper, the proponents say the route will not be through town any longer (not true), and will have fewer grade level crossings. (questionable). They fail to take into consideration segment 3 which goes through a predominately low income minority residential area and along Longview Elementary school. This is the existing segment slated to be rehabbed.

From a public safety standpoint it makes no sense to run a freight train within the city, across busy streets, through a neighborhood and along an elementary school playground when alternatives exist. Moses Lake has seen unprecedented growth in the last 5 years. I can't imagine what it will look like in fifty, yet the projected life of this rail line is 75 – 100 years. The solution is to run the line north from Wheeler on the old abandon railroad right-of-way and come into the airport from the East. Keep it outside the city limits of Moses Lake, and outside the major growth occurring around the area of the proposed route.

I believe if build on this proposed route the average citizen will be negatively impacted by this rail service. The proponents and a few landowners and industries will benefit. The few jobs created will not be enough to balance the negatives from this route. There is ample industrial land available in and around Moses Lake with rail service. If rail service is so valuable to the Port, then it is valuable enough in the long term to do right, and move it out of the city.

Thank you,

Bob Russell

4108 Rd. K.5 NE

Moses Lake, WA 98837.